

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 101690
ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/ID/LA:BTMANSBACH:SMW
APPROVED BY EB/IDF/OIA:RDKAUZLARICH
EB/IFD/OIA:DSTEBBING
ARA/ECP:DTAHER (INFO)

-----042316Z 004010 /61

O 042153Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CALI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 101690

FROM OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: ANDEAN INVESTMENT MISSION

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED TODAY:

1. COMPANY BIOGRAPHY:
2. INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHY OF CARLOS F. A. BLANCO
3. INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHY OF F. LANG MARKS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 101690

-- OBENCHAIN

1. THE COMPANY AS FORMED IN 1962 BY RICHARD F. OBENCHAIN AS R. F. OBENCHAIN AND COMPANY. MR. OBENCHAIN HAD A WORLD WIDE REPUTATION AS AN AUTHORITY IN STEELMAKING PLANT DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION AS THE LEADING STEEL-MAKER OF FREYN/OPEN HEARTH COMBUSTION COMPANIES.

FROM 1949 UNTIL 1962 MR. OBENCHAIN TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SUPERVISING AND ADVISING ON OPEN HEARTH AND BOF DESIGN AND OPERATION. HE HAD COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANY OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INSTALLATIONS WHICH INCLUDED:

YOUNGSTOWN SHEET AND TUBE COMPANY, INDIANA HARBOR WORKS -

1950 EXPANSION PROGRAM CONSISTING OF AN 8 - 300-TON OPEN HEARTH SHOP AND A 115" SLABBING MILL.

TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY, JANSHPUR, INDIA, 1952 - BESSEMER AND OPEN HEARTH DUPLEX SHOP.

MCCLOUTH STEEL CORPORATION, TRENTON AND GIBRALTAR, MICHIGAN - 1963 INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT PROGRAM.

BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION, SPARROWS POINT PLANT, 1955 - 7 - 400-TON OPEN HEARTH SHOP AND 45" X 90" SLABBING MILL WHICH MADE THIS PLANT THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE STEEL PLANT.

JONES AND LAUGHLIN STEEL CORPORATION, CLEVELAND WORKS, 1959 PROGRAM - 2 230-TON BOF SHOP WHICH WAS THREE TIMES

MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN ANY OTHER SHOP AT THE TIME.

ITALSIDER, TARANTO ITALY PLANT - 1961 PROGRAM 2 - 330-TON BOF SHOP, AGAIN THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD AT THE TIME.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 101690

R. F. OBENCHAIN AND COMPANY, SOON AFTER ITS FORMATION, BECAME CONSULTANTS FOR BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION ON THEIR LACKAWANNA 3 - 300-TON BOF SHOP PROGRAM WHICH WAS APPROPRIATED IN 1962. THIS SHOP IS PROBABLY STILL THE WORLD'S MOST PRODUCTIVE SHOP. JOB AFTER JOB FOLLOWED, AND THE COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED IN PENNSYLVANIA IN 1964 AND TOOK ITS PRESENT NAME IN 1965.

OBENCHAIN CORPORATION WAS ACCEPTED IN EVERY FACET OF PLANT DESIGN FOR THE METALS INDUSTRY AND IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW COMPANIES EXPERIENCED IN COMPLETE PLANT DESIGN AND HAS PROVIDED MANY CONFIDENTIAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES PRIOR TO APPROPRIATION FOR THE METALS INDUSTRY.

IN 1967, ENGINEERING NEWS RECORD RATED THE CORPORATION 34TH AMONG THE NATION'S LARGEST DESIGN CONSTRUCTORS.

BY 1977, OBENCHAIN CORPORATION HAD ACQUIRED OVER 900 SEPARATE CONTRACTS AND IN THE CALENDAR YEAR 1976 HAD

COMPLETE DESIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILLION DOLLARS OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMS ON NINE SEPARATE MAJOR CONTRACTS. IN ADDITION, SOME 50 SMALLER CONTRACTS WERE ACQUIRED.

OBENCHAIN CORPORATION HAS ABOUT 250 PROFESSIONALS IN THEIR DESIGN GROUP BASED IN THREE SEPARATE LOCATIONS--PITTSBURGH

CHICAGO, AND DETROIT.

THE COMPANY HAS PIONEERED MANY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BOF PROCESS, ALL PHASES OF PLANT POLLUTION CORRECTION, DIRECT REDUCTION OF ORES, AND MANY OTHER AREAS OF OPERATION.

OBENCHAIN CORPORATION MANUFACTURES MANY OF ITS PROPRIETARY ITEMS AND CUSTOM-DESIGNED EQUIPMENT AT ITS SUBSIDIARY,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 101690

EIGHTY FOUR MACHINE AND WELDING COMPANY AT WASHINGTON, PA.

2. CARLOS F. A. BLANCO

EDUCATION: BSCE UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

REGISTRATION: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, PUERTO RICO

EXPERIENCE:

OBENCHAIN CORPORATION - 1967 TO PRESENT

MR. BLANCO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SALES FOR OBENCHAIN INTERNATIONAL. HE SUPERVISED THE STARTUP OF OUR 20-TON ENGLE WATER-COOLED HOT BLAST BASIC CUPOLA FOR FUNDICION MONCLOVA, S.A.

PRIOR TO THIS, MR. BLANCO WAS WITH:

KOPPERS DE VENEZUELA, C.A. - 6 YEARS

MR. BLANCO WAS ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATION FOR THE SIDOR PLANT WHICH INCLUDES THE WORLD'S LARGEST INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC REDUCTION FURNACES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON.

ACERIAS PAZ DEL RIO, BOGOTA, COLOMBIA - 8 YEARS

MR. BLANCO WAS ASSISTANT TO THE VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATION FOR PAZ DEL RIO, AND AT THIS PLANT HE WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOUNDRY SECTION OF THE PLANT.

ARTHUR G. MCKEE AND COMPANY, CLEVELAND, OHIO - 3 YEARS

PRIOR TO ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT WITH PAZ DEL RIO, MR. BLANCO
WAS PLANT ENGINEER WORKING ON THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 101690

AND STARTUP OF THE COMPLETELY INTEGRATED PLANT BUILT FOR
PAZ DEL RIO.

H. K. FERGUSON, NEW YORK, NY - 5 YEARS

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, AND OPERATION OF CHEMICAL PROCESS
PLANTS. RESIDENT ENGINEER IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND INITIAL
OPERATIONS OF THE BETANIA ALKALA PLANT IN ZIPAGUIRA,
COLOMBIA.

MILITARY SERVICE

WWII, U.S. NAVY, 91ST AND 93RD CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS.
CONSTRUCTION OFFICER IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND
PHILIPPINES. ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER, NAVY 3864
SHIP REPAIR BASE, MANICANI, P.I.

3. F. LANG MARKS

EDUCATION: BSME
PURDUE UNIVERSITY 1964

MEMBERSHIPS: ASSOCIATION OF IRON AND STEEL ENGINEERS
(AISE)
IRON AND STEEL SOCIETY OF AIME
INSTITUTO LATINAMERICANO DEL FIERRO Y EL ACERO (ILAFA)

EXPERIENCE:

MR. MARKS HAS BEEN WITH OBENCHAIN CORPORATION SINCE 1974.
INITIALLY ASSIGNED TO DUTIES AS PROJECT MANAGER OF VARIOUS

STEELMAKING AND IRON FOUNDRY CONTRACTS INCLUDING
COORDINATION OF ALL PHASES OF ENGINEERING, INSTALLATION,
AND STARTUP OF A 100-TON PER HOUR HOT BLAST CUPOLA AT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 101690

BETHLEHEM STEEL CORPORATION, LACKAWANNA NY, AND DESIGN

ASPECTS OF A NEW BOF SHOP AT BETHELEHEM STEEL CORP.
JOHNSTOWN PA, MR. MARKS IS PRESENTLY VICE PRESIDENT OF
OBENCHAIN INTERNATIONAL.

AS PLANT MANAGER FOR A PITTSBURGH-BASED HOME FURNISHING
MANUFACTURER FROM 1971 TO 1974, HE COORDINATED AND
MANAGED THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, STARTUP, AND OPERATION
OF A LARGE MANUFACTURING FACILITY INCLUDING SALES, PROD-
UCTION, AND MAINTENANCE DURING THE INITIAL THREE YEARS OF
OPERATION.

FROM 1964 TO 1971, MR. MARKS WAS EMPLOYED BY ALLEGHENY

LUDLUM STEEL CORPORATION BEGINNING AS A LINE FOREMAN.
ULTIMATE ASSIGNMENT WAS AS SUPERINTENDENT IN THE
BLOOMING AND HOT STRIP MILL DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS AMONG
THE LARGEST IN THE UNITED STATES IN PRODUCTION TONNAGE
OF STAINLESS, SILICON, AND SPECIALTY STEEL SLAB, BILLET
AND STRIP PRODUCTS. HE WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOAKING PITS, SLAB REHEATING
FURNACES, AND ANNEALING FACILITIES. NOMINATED FOR
MEMBERSHIP TO THE AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL (AISI)
COMMITTEE ON ROLLING MILLS IN 1969. VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, TRADE VISITS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE101690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BTMANSBACH:SMW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-0048
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770593/aaaadcnb.tel
Line Count: 247
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9c428c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2639259
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANDEAN INVESTMENT MISSION THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED TODAY
TAGS: EINV, BTRA, BBAK, US, BL, CO, PE, EC, OPIC, R F OBENCHAIN & COMPANY, (BLANCO, CARLOS F A), (MARKS, F LANG)
To: LA PAZ BOGOTA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9c428c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009